Summary Points (Points in RED have NOT been released publicly)

- **Scope:** The Defeat-ISIS coalition is a general, not specific, frame of reference for military deployments. The overall NZDF contribution is comprised of different NZDF operations (*Manawa*, *Mohua*, *Pukeko*, *Troy*). The military line of effort is only one of a number of lines aimed at defeating ISIS. Others include counter-financing, messaging, stabilisation, addressing foreign terrorist fighters.
- Numbers: There are approximately 136 NZDF personnel currently deployed in roles primarily associated with the Defeat-ISIS coalition and activities (the precise number fluctuates according to staff rotations and leave).
- Locations: The Defeat-ISIS coalition is primarily focussed on Iraq and Syria, and has various locations in the Middle East region. The NZDF personnel are located in: Iraq (115), s6(a) Qatar (3+3), Jordan 6(a) and Kuwait (2).
- **Authorities:** The NZDF personnel are currently deployed under two different Cabinet paper mandates, and modifications have been made to the deployments by Ministerial decisions under a delegated authority set out by Cabinet.
- **Timeframes:** The NZDF personnel deployed to Iraq following a Cabinet decision in February 2015. The Cabinet reviewed and renewed the Iraq mandate in June 2016, with an expiry in November 2018.
- Activities: The majority of NZDF deployed are focussed on training, while some
 are focussed on planning, logistics, intelligence or legal issues. Most are
 deployed in Iraq. None of these NZDF personnel are authorised to engage in a
 direct targeting role, or directly participate in offensive operations.
- Mandate developments: The mandate developments since 2015, mostly Ministerial decisions identified and delegated by the Cabinet, include:
 - mobile training in coalition bases beyond the Taji Military Complex;
 - training of police, emergency response and border guards (not just the army);
 - deployment of s6(a) and a legal adviser;
 - mentoring to Iraqi Security Forces in the Taji Military Complex at the North Baghdad Operational Command; and
 - 💃 🔐 expanded force protection role in Taji.
- Separate mandates: The Cabinet has also made separate but related mandate decisions for:
 - logistics and support personnel
 - staff officers to the Combined Air Operations Command in Qatar; and
 - a Deputy Commander in Baghdad and support staff (completed August 2017).

Summary Table

Location Numbers of NZDF Description		Description	NZDF Operati on	Cabinet Mandate / Minute	Mandate expiry
Iraq (Taji)	108	106 x BPC contingent engaged in training Iraqi security forces	Manawa	CAB decisions Feb 2015 / June 2016 CAB Min (15) 5/8 NSC-16-MIN-0018 NSC-16-MIN-0018.1	Nov 18
Iraqi (Baghdad)	7	5 x staff officers in logistics, planning training, and information roles 1 x legal advisor 1 x movement specialist	Mohua	CAB decisions Feb 2015 / June 2016 (on Iraq and D-ISIS)	Nov 18
Kuwait	2	2 x staff officers in Inherent Resolve Coalition HQ supporting intelligence and planning	Mohua	CAB decisions Feb 2015 / March 2016 (on Iraq and D-ISIS)	Nov 18
Qatar	6	3 x staff officers in Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) in planning and intelligence roles	Pukeko Mohua	CAB decision July 2017 (on Middle East Maritime Security and Support Operations) ERD-17-MIN-0020 CAB decisions Feb 2015 / March 2016 (on Iraq	Jun 20 ² Nov 2018
\		and staff officer ¹	6(a)	and D-ISIS)	
Jordan		s6(a)		CAB decision March 2017 CAB-17-MIN-0081)	s6(a)

See classified annex.
 Part of a mandate with multiple components, with expiry across the full range of those components.
 As above.
 This operation has not been publically released.

Background

How did the coalition come about?

Similar to many countries during 2014 and 2015, New Zealand noted **ISIS's unprecedented success**, brutal tactics and harm to civilians, and ability to recruit, fund and carry out sophisticated combat, terrorist and information operations.

- 2. Following a **request from the Iraqi Government** for assistance to counter ISIS, the major response was through the United States-led global coalition to Defeat-ISIS. Many of New Zealand's partners contribute significantly to the coalition, including the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, and countries such as France, Germany and Norway. There are **74 members of the coalition**, of which, a smaller number are significant military contributors.
- 3. **President Obama's Administration** developed and led the coalition response up to January 2017, and under President Trump's Administration it has not significantly changed in objectives, membership or activities.

How did New Zealand initially decide to deploy?

- 4. In **February 2015, Cabinet decided** to deploy a training mission to Iraq with staff officer support in the Middle East (the Iraq deployment mandate). This mission had two main components. First, up to 106 NZDF personnel for a joint Australia-New Zealand **Building Partner Capacity** (BPC) Mission at Taji Military Camp in Iraq (*Operation Manawa*). The training covers a broad range of individual and organisational military skills in order to prepare Iraqi units for combat and stabilisation operations. **Key training activities** include:
 - basic weapons skills;
 - individual and unit military skills to prepare for combat operations;
 - laws of armed conflict and women, peace and security;
 - training on the planning and conducting combat operations;
 - training related to the medical and logistics to support operations; and
 - officer and junior personnel leadership development.

What decisions could be taken under Cabinet's authority?

- 8. The 2015 Cabinet mandate for the Iraq deployment provided a **delegated Ministerial authority**. The Minister of Defence, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was authorised "to make adjustments to the deployment in response to operational requirements, provided the adjustments did not significantly change the numbers, cost or intent of the mission".
- 9. The 2015 Cabinet mandate for Iraq also provided that **Chief of Defence**Force with authority to increase the BPC contingent by s6(a)

 in response to operational contingencies. This operational contingency buffer is included in the total mandate of 143 personnel. It was agreed that advice to relevant Ministers would be prepared on these occasions.

When did Cabinet first review the Iraq deployment?

- 10. In March 2016, following approximately nine months on the ground in Iraq, a **Cabinet mandated review** of the deployment was carried out. The review confirmed that the deployment was meeting its objectives contributing to the coalition and positively impacting the ability of the Iraqi Security Forces to combat and ultimately defeat ISIS.
- 11. Following consideration of the review, in June 2016 Cabinet approved the extension of the Iraq deployment and BPC Mission to 30 November 2018. The extension was (and remains) contingent on four factors:
 - developments in the security situation in lrag;
 - a reasonably stable political situation in Iraq;
 - Australia's continued partnership in the BPC mission; and
 - the ongoing invitation of the Government of Iraq.
- 12. Cabinet was further informed that New Zealand and other BPC contributors had been asked to allow their trainers to **deliver training at alternative secure sites within Iraq** (i.e. outside Taji). This would provide the coalition with the flexibility to meet the ebb and flow of Iraqi training audiences, and optimise the use of scarce coalition resources. At the time, Australia and New Zealand had received a specific request from coalition headquarters to deploy a team to the nearby BPC site of Besmaya (led by Spain) to carry out advanced heavy weapons and unit tactics training to Iraqi Army units as part of their instruction programme.
- 13. Cabinet agreed that NZDF trainers could train outside of Taji at other BPC sites by supporting this training delivery at Besmaya, and authorised the Minister of Defence to consider future requests for New Zealand to conduct training in other BPC sites on a case by case basis.
- The coalition also identified that as more territory was recaptured from ISIS, professional and **well-trained stabilisation forces** (also known as holding forces) would have a critical role to play. The training of wider elements of the Iraqi Security Forces likely to be involved as stabilisation forces such as the Federal Police, local police forces and border forces was identified as a priority.
- 15. **Cabinet agreed in principle** that NZDF personnel were able to provide training to stabilisation forces within the Iraqi Security Forces. It also agreed that further advice on changing the training audience would be provided to the **Minister**

of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister for their approval (see paragraph 12). Any decision to do so would be contingent on Australia also agreeing to broaden its training audience.

What evolutions have there been for the mandate?

16. In accordance with the permissions set out in the 2015 and 2016 Cabinet decisions, the Minister of Defence and Chief of Defence Force have made some further adjustments to the Iraq deployment since June 2016. This has been in response to the evolving security situation and request from coalition headquarters.

Training Locations

- 17. In October 2016 the Minister of Defence agreed, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister, that NZDF personnel (as part of a joint Australia-New Zealand training team) conduct short-term BPC training to Iraqi Security Forces personnel at **Al Taqqadum Air Base** on an ongoing basis. This base is home to the Iraqi Army 8th Division, the Anbar Operations Command and the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service, and is located approximately 70km west of Baghdad.
- 18. In January 2017, the Minister of Defence agreed, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister, to NZDF personnel providing training to Iraqi Security Forces at **Qayyarah West airfield**. The Minister was informed this would involve a small team of up to 25 Australian Defence Force and NZDF personnel (10-20 from NZDF) travelling to Qayyarah West for up to four weeks on each occasion. As Qayyarah West is located 60km south of Mosul where operations were still ongoing and due to the need for operational security, the decision to expand training to this location was not made public at the time. It has subsequently been released via an Official Information Act request. No NZDF personnel have conducted training at Qayyarah West as of yet.

Training Audiences

19. Following Cabinet's agreement in principle to expand Iraqi training audiences in June 2016, the Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs agreed in September 2016 that the NZDF could provide training at Taji to the Iraqi Federal Police, local Police Service, Emergency Response Division and the Border Guard (all part of the Iraqi Security Forces). The purpose of the training is to enable law enforcement agencies to conduct stabilisation functions in liberated areas. Kurdish forces, the Popular Mobilisation Forces and other militia are still excluded from training by the NZDF. To date, NZDF have trained Iraqi Federal Police and Energy Police (national level police force subordinate to the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior). The change in training audiences was announced in a press release.

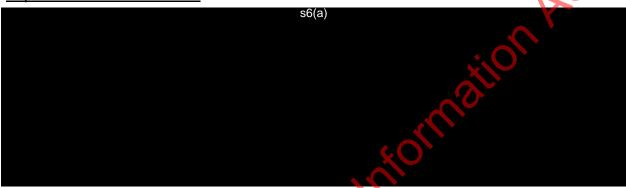
Mentoring to Iragi Security Forces at Taji

20. In July 2017, the **Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs** authorised NZDF troops already deployed to Iraq to participate in Australia's efforts to provide **mentoring support to Iraqi Security Forces** units in the North Baghdad Operational Command (also located at Taji). The primary function of this headquarters is to plan and control the conduct of security operations in the area immediately north of Baghdad, which includes protection of the Taji Military Complex

from hostile forces. This mentoring is conducted within the confines of the headquarters, and they do not accompany Iraqi Security Forces.

21. Ministers noted that this task was the only line of effort at Taji in which New Zealand forces were not integrated with Australia, and that the mentoring support would assist with coalition efforts to train and upskill the Iraqi forces as the focus shifted to stabilisation. The decision was made pursuant to Minister of Defence's permission, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to make adjustments to the Iraq deployment based on operational requirements, provided these did not significantly change the mission's costs, numbers or intent. It was released via an Official Information Act request.

Expanded Force Protection



What other deployment decisions have there been since June 2016?

Deputy Commanding General of Coalition Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command

- 23. In August 2016 Cabinet agreed that a senior NZDF officer would fill the position of **Deputy Commanding General of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command** Operation Inherent Resolve for nine months from November 2016 (i.e. to August 2017). It is a rotational role so far held by S6(a). The position is based in the coalition headquarters in Baghdad, which is also the location of several other NZDF officers.
- 24. The Deputy Commander role included **duties that support all aspects of the broader military campaign** to defeat ISIS rather than working solely on issues related to the BPC line of military effort. The Deputy Commander is the principal deputy (there are other Deputy Commanders) for the Commanding General of the Coalition Land Component Command (a US Major-General). Specific work areas included:
- control of headquarters functions including campaign measures of effectiveness;
- Cmaintaining coalition cohesion by engagement, relationship management and ensuring efficient information flow;
- oversight of the advise and assist efforts within Iraq;



25. The NZDF officer in this position provided New Zealand with valuable situational awareness on coalition planning and enabled positive national influence within the operation. A NZDF **legal adviser and military assistant** deployed in support of the Deputy Commander including to ensure a New Zealand perspective on legal advice. All three have since returned to New Zealand. The deployment of the Deputy Commanding General announced in a press release and his identity subsequently entered the public domain, as he engaged with media on behalf of the coalition.

<u>International Law Legal Adviser to Combined Joint Forces Land Component</u> Command Headquarters

- 26. In July 2017 the **Minister of Defence** agreed under the Cabinet mandate for Iraq to deploy a NZDF **legal officer to the Headquarters of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command** in Baghdad. This deployment finishes November 2018. It is distinct from the legal adviser deployed to the Coalition Land Component Command to provide national support to the NZDF officer in the Deputy Commander role.
- 27. The international law legal adviser was deployed to Iraq in December 2017, and is responsible for providing advice on the **legal basis for conducting operations**, **the use of force, and intelligence operations**. This person is not involved in the targeting process. They also advise on the application of international law affecting military operations, and provide training and advice on the Law of Armed Conflict to Iraqi Security Force Units within the Headquarters environment. The NZDF has not taken steps to publicly announce this role.

28. The Minister of Defence had also agreed under the Cabinet mandate for Iraq
to deploy s6(a) to the Canadian All-Source Intelligence Cell based in Kuwait
from January to August 2017.
These intelligence products were provided to
coalition headquarters to support and protect future operations. Canada made the
request to New Zealand, as it provides no-cost training of New Zealand s6(a)
. The fact of this deployment has been released via an Official Information
Act request.
29. A similar process and range of issues was addressed in deploying additional
to Central Command's Forward Headquarters in Qatar in
August 2017 (see classified annex). Also deployed to Qatar in October 17 was one
additional staff officer who oversaw and co-ordinated the efforts of the \$6(a)
The details of this deployment are classified and have not been
released to the public.
released to the public.
Operation Gallant Phoenix
30 In March 2017 Cabinet approved the deployment of up to sal NZDF sala

s6(a) personnel to the intelligence fusion centre Operation Gallant Phoenix

I intelligence fusion centre based out of Amman, Jordan. The operation

OGP is a

(OGP) in Amman, Jordan.

started as an s6(a)

The Operation has now evolved to provide a platform for coalition partners to collect, monitor and process material regarding potential and existing terrorist threats and trends at home and globally. While OGP is a publicly disclosed operation, **New Zealand's contribution has not been publicly announced**.

2017 Maritime Security and Support Operations Cabinet Paper

31. In March 2017 **Cabinet** approved a set of NZDF Naval and Air Force contributions to both **maritime security and support operations to the Middle East** region out to June 2020. This included an agreement to continue the deployment of two staff officers to the US Air Force's Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) in Qatar, which was first approved in 2014, and to increase this by one officer. There are currently three NZDF personnel deployed to the CAOC under this mandate: two are responsible for the planning and coordinating of air assets in support of coalition operations;

The three

officers have been noted in the response to an Official Information Act request.

Afghanistan and deployments in the region

- 32. The NZDF Provincial Reconstruction Team conducted activities in the Bamyan province between September 2003 to April 2013, before returning to New Zealand. Concurrently, in February 2013, Cabinet approved the deployment of eight trainers to the United Kingdom-led Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) in Kabul, as a component of the NATO Resolute Support Mission. Following a subsequent request from the United Kingdom, in May 2016 Cabinet agreed to extend the NZDF contribution to 30 June 2018 and increase personnel numbers from eight to ten at the ANAOA. The last mission change occurred in August 2017, in response to a United States' request, when Cabinet approved a further increase of one NZDF trainer to ANAOA (total now 11), and the separate deployment of two Staff Officers to the Resolute Support Missions Headquarters, mandated until 30 June 2019.
- 33. The NZDF also has a number of other long-standing deployments in the Middle East Region mandated by Cabinet. These are 28 personnel in the Multinational Force Observers (MFO) mission on the Sinai Peninsular in Egypt, and up to eight personnel supporting the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in Israel and Lebanon.

International Branch, Ministry of Defence Strategic Commitments and Engagement Branch, New Zealand Defence Force February 2018

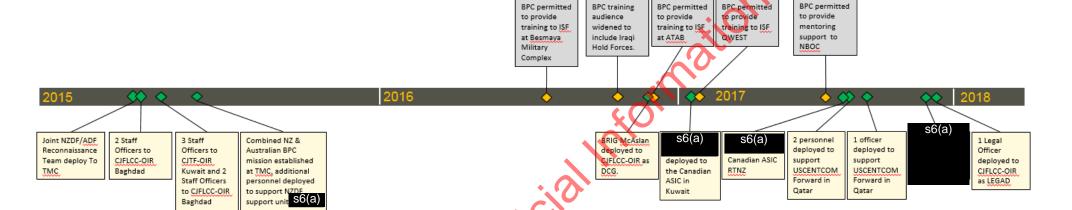
Annexes

- A. NZDF Defeat ISIS Timeline
- B. Current NZDF Defeat ISIS Deployment Footprint
- C. Classified Deployments (issued separately)
- D. Summary of Information Release

NZDF DEFEAT ISIS TIMELINE



BPC permitted



Deployments

- March 2015 Op MANAWA: Joint NZDF and ADF Reconnaissance Team deployed to Taji Military
- March 2015 Op MOHUA: First 2 Staff Officers deployed to Combined Joint Force Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJFLCC-OIR).
- April 2015 Op MOHUA: 3 Staff Officers deployed to Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) Headquarters in Kuwait, 2 Staff Officers deployed to CJFLCC-OIR Baghdad.
- May 2015 Op MANAWA: Combined NZ & Australian Building Partner Capacity (BPC) mission established at TMC, additional personnel deployed to support NZDF support unit s6(a)
- November 2016 Op MOHUA: Brigadier McAslan deployed to CJFLCC-QIR for nine months as Deputy Commanding General (DCG). The DCG was accompanied by a Military Assistant and a Legal Advisor.
- January 2017 Op MOHUA: An is deployed to the Canadian All Source Intelligence Cell (ASIC) in Kuwait.
- s6(a) August 2017 – Op MOHUA at Canadian ASIC returns to New Zealand.
- August 2017 Op MOHUA; 2 personnel deployed to support US Central Command (USCENTCOM) Forward in Qatar.
- October 2017 Op MOHUA: 1 officer deployed to support USCENTCOM Forward.

s6(a)

December 2017 – Op MOHUA: 1 Lega Officer deployed to CJFLCC-OIR as Legal Advisor (LEGAD)

Amendments to training operations

- August 2016 Op MANAWA: BPC personnel permitted to provide training to Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) at Besmaya Military Complex if requested by CJFLCC-OIR.
- September 2016 Op MANAWA: BPC training audience widened to include Iraqi Federal Police, Iraqi Border Guard Forces, and local Police Service personnel - collectively known as Hold Forces.
- October 2016 Op MANAWA: BPC personnel permitted to provide training to ISF at Al Tagaddum Air Base (ATAB) if requested by CJFLCC-OIR.
- January 2017 Op MANAWA: BPC personnel permitted to provide training to ISF at Qayyarah West Air Base (QWEST) if requested by CJFLCC-OIR.
- July 2017 Op MANAWA: BPC personnel permitted to provide mentoring support to Baghdad Operations Command - North (NBOC) staff.

Glossary

ASIC All Source Intelligence Cell ATAB Al Tagaddum Air Base BPC **Building Partner Capacity**

CJFLCC-OIR Combined Joint Force Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve CJTF-OIR Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve

DCG

Deputy Commanding General

s6(a)

Iragi Security Forces LEGAD Legal Advisor

NBOC Baghdad Operations Command - North

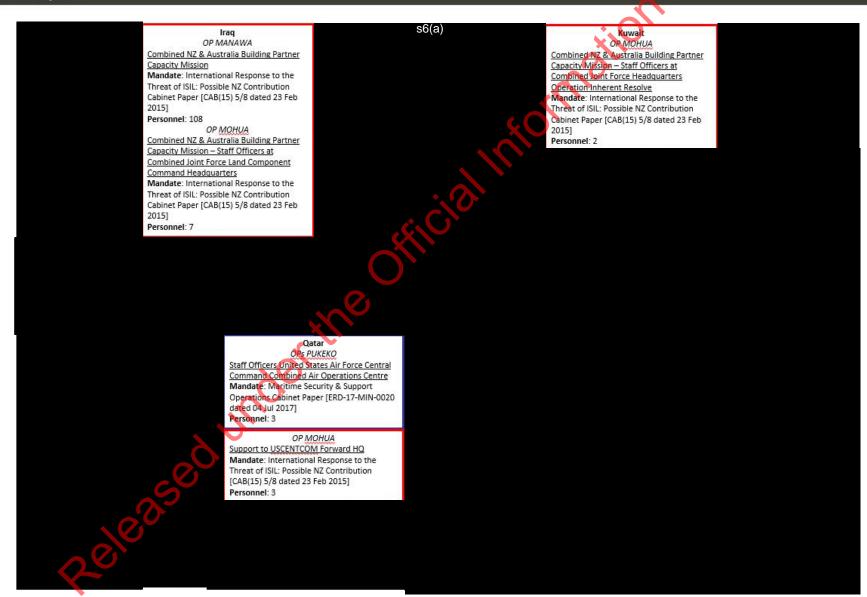
QWEST Qayvarah West Air Base TMC Taji Military Complex

USCENTCOM United States Central Command

NZDF DEFEAT ISIS DEPLOYMENTS

As at 19 February 2018





Summary of Information Release

Serial	Location	Numbers of NZDF	Description	NZDF Operation	Cabinet Mandate / Minute	Mandate expiry	Release Status
1	Iraq (Taji)	108	106 x BPC contingent engaged in training Iraqi security forces	Manawa	CAB decisions Feb 2015 / June 2016 CAB Min (15) 5/8 NSC-16-MIN-0018 NSC-16-MIN-0018.1	Nov 18	Publicly released via redacted Cabinet Paper. s6(a)
			So(a)		1,110		50(a)
2	Iraq (Baghdad)	7	5 x staff officers in logistics, planning training, and information roles	Mohua	CAB decisions Feb 2015 / June 2016 (<i>on</i> <i>Iraq and D-ISIS</i>)	Nov 18	Publicly released via redacted Cabinet Paper – location & description of roles only. No details of personnel numbers.
			1 x legal advisor	% (O)			Not publicly released. Refer Serial 18 below. Could be considered for release
			1 x movement specialist				Not publicly released – redacted in Cabinet Paper. Could be considered for release
3	Kuwait	2	2 x staff officers in Inherent Resolve Coalition HQ supporting intelligence and planning	Mohua	CAB decisions Feb 2015 / March 2016 (on Iraq and D-ISIS)	Nov 18	Not publicly released – redacted in Cabinet Paper. Could be considered for release

4	Qatar	6	3 x staff officers in Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) in planning and intelligence roles	Pukeko	CAB decision July 2017 (on Middle East Maritime Security and Support Operations) ERD-17-MIN-0020	Jun 20 ⁶	Referred to in public release document (NZDF Annual Report 2017). Confirmed via media enquiries.
			2 x s6(a) and staff officer ⁵	Mohua	CAB decisions Feb. 2015 / March 2016 (on Iraq and D-ISIS)	Nov 2018	Not publicly released [CLASSIFIED] Refer Serials 14 & 15 below.
				O	s6(a)		
6	Jordan	I	s6(a)	U.S.	CAB decision March 2017 CAB-17-MIN- 0081)	s6(a)	Not publicly released [CLASSIFIED]. Could be considered for release

⁵ See classified annex.

Fart of a mandate with multiple components, with expiry across the full range of those components.
 As above.
 This operation has not been publically released.

	Changes to Mandate / Additional Personnel Deployments							
	Location	Date	Description	NZDF Operation	Release Status			
7	Iraq	Aug 16	Permission to provide training to ISF at Besmaya Military Complex	Manawa	Publicly released via Press Release.			
8	Iraq	Sep 16	Change in training audience to include Iraqi Hold Forces	Manawa	Publicly released via Press Release.			
9	Iraq	Nov 16 – Jul 17	Deployment of BRIG McAslan to DCG CJFLCC-OIR	Mohua	Publicly released via Press Release. Released in response to OIA.			
10	Iraq	Oct 16	Permission to provide training to ISF at Al Taqqudum Air Base	Manawa	Publicly released via Press Release.			
11	Kuwait	Jan 17 – Aug 17	s6(a) deployed to Canadian ASIC	Mohua	Released in response to OIA.			
12	Iraq	Jan 17	Permission to provide training to ISF at Qayyarah West Air Base	Manawa	Released in response to OIA.			
13	Iraq	Jul 17	Permission to provide mentoring support to NBOC	Manawa	Released in response to OIA.			

14	Qatar	Aug 17	2 x s6(a) deployed to US CENTCOM Forward	Mohua	Not publicly released [CLASSIFIED]
15	Qatar	Oct 17	1 x Officer deployed to US CENTCOM Forward	Mohua	Not publicly released [CLASSIFIED]
16	Iraq	Oct 17	Expansion of Quick Reaction Force area of responsibility at Taji Military Complex	Manawa	Not publicly released. Sensitive due Operational Security.
				c.C	s6(a)
18	Iraq	Dec 17	1 x Legal Officer deployed to CJFLCC-OIR	Mohua	Released in response to OIA.